

June 25, 2003

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Comments by Alex Hildebrand on June 23 Draft of Chapter 2 of the Water Plan

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- 1) Under 2.2, “Current Statewide Water Uses and Supplies” insert a new sentence after the second sentence to say “However, those conditions do not address the stressful result of droughts, or even successive dry years when reservoirs are not still full from prior flood years.”
- 2) Under 2.2, “Roles in Water Management”, there should be a discussion of the fact that local governments and water entities can address their water needs and services. But they can not address the water needed to produce the goods and services and food which they do not produce for themselves. These needs must be provided from another region of the State or from another source that can predictably continue to have the water and other resources needed to produce those products in excess of their own needs. The State must make this assessment.
- 3) The discussion under “New Surface Storage” should explain that the Water Plan must, first, ascertain whether and to what extent future water needs can be met without new surface storage that is designed to capture flows to the ocean that exceed established outflow requirements. The Water Plan must then also assess the extent to which these excess flows can be captured in offstream storage. Offstream storage is limited in the extent to which it can capture excess water during the limited duration of excess flows. Only then can we determine whether new surface storage is needed and, if so, what type of storage is needed. This issue can not be resolved by beliefs that are not based on first making these assessments.
- 4) The discussion of groundwater should address our dependence on very substantial groundwater extraction during drought and the problem that will arise when this level of deficit extraction is no longer feasible.